

Abstract 271

TITLE: Comparing Characteristics of Rural and Urban Persons with AIDS in Georgia

AUTHORS: Beltrami¹, JF; McCormick¹, LW; Fann², SA; Toomey¹, KE (1Georgia Department of Human Resources, Atlanta GA and²Emory University, Atlanta, GA)

OBJECTIVES: From 1990 to 1997, the proportion of AIDS cases reported in Georgia from rural areas increased from 25% to 33%. We sought to compare characteristics of rural and urban persons with AIDS (PWAs) from the Supplement to HIV/AIDS Surveillance Project.

METHODS: In 1995-1996, PWAs were interviewed at rural clinics in the Albany and Waycross Health Districts and at one urban clinic in Atlanta. We used multivariate analysis and included outcome variables associated with the location of interview (rural or urban) on bivariate analysis (p < .05). Logistic regression was used to examine the association between rural PWAs and drug use, history of syphilis and tuberculosis (TES), knowledge of HIV status of their steady sex partner, and dental services not found. We considered demographics, socioeconomic status, and sexual orientation as possible confounders and adjusted for them in the analysis. SAS was used to calculate odds ratios (OR) and 95% confidence intervals (95% CI).

RESULTS: Of the 1,100 PWAs approached, 898 (82%) participated. Of these 898 PWAs, 253 (28%) were from the rural clinics; 339 (38%) had a probable drinking problem, 203 (23%) had ever injected drugs, 358 (40%) had ever used crack, 287 (32%) had a history of syphilis, 70 (8%) had a history of TB, 162 (18%) did not know the HIV status of their most recent steady sex partner, and 134 (15 %) were unable to find needed dental services. With adjustment for seven variables in the model, rural PWAs, compared to urban PWAs, were more likely to have had syphilis (OR=2.0, 95% CI=[1.42-2.91]) and TB (OR=2.1, 95% CI=[1.2-3.8]), to not know the HIV status of their most recent steady sex partner (OR=1.7, 95% CI=[1.1-2.51]) and to be unable to find dental services (OR=5.0, 95% CI=[3.27-7.71]).

CONCLUSIONS: Public health programs in these rural areas should focus on persons at highest risk for HIV, STDs, and TB and include education, behavioral interventions, and dental services.

PRESENTER CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: John F. Beltrami, MD, MPH & TM

Address: GA Dept. of Human Resources
2 Peachtree St. NW; 6th Floor Rm. 6-412
Atlanta, GA 30303-3186

Telephone: (404) 657-2601

Fax: (404) 657-4141

E-mail: JXB0600@dhr.state.ga.us